

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20542

There is substantial medical evidence that an unborn child is capable of experiencing pain by 20 weeks after fertilization. It is the purpose of the State to assert a compelling state interest in protecting the lives of unborn children from the stage at which substantial medical evidence indicates that they are capable of feeling pain, and the bill protects such unborn children by prohibiting abortion after 20 weeks postfertilization, except when the mother has a condition which so complicates her medical condition as to necessitate the abortion of her pregnancy to avert her death or to avert serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, not including psychological or emotional conditions, or it is necessary to preserve the life of an unborn child.

FISCAL NOTE

It is very difficult to determine the possible Fiscal Impact of this bill. The State of Nebraska has passed similar legislation and there has been no legal challenge of the legislation. Therefore, if no one legally challenges this bill, there will be no fiscal impact. However, should it be necessary for the state to defend the legislative action, there would possibly be some Fiscal Impact. However, the bill establishes a legal defense fund that would allow contributions of non-state money to provide for or aid the state in the defense of this legislation.

Contact:

Name: Senator Chuck Winder

Office:

Phone: (208) 332-1000